







From Memphis telegraph. The Star had just returned from down the river. She had been eighty-five miles below the Federal line. While at Council Bluffs a hundred armed men came to the ship and burned some cotton awaiting shipment.

Men rangers have possession of Arkansas below the mouth of White river. Hovey has arrived at Memphis, on way to visit his wife, who is dangerously ill. He had three skirmishes with the rebels on the expedition to Grenada, in which he was always successful. He lost a horse, but, save a few slight wounds, a man was hurt.

The Confederates are going South, but to a particular point is not known. There was a rumor in Memphis on the 10th that the gunboats were bombarding Vicksburg. If there is any truth in this report, probably only a faint.

LATER. Cairo, Dec. 12.

It seems now certain that Pemberton and his army have fallen back beyond Grant's reach. The Black- to run again on the Federal reach.

The rainy season in Mississippi has set in and the moving of cannon or wagon lines is very difficult.

Certain steamboats have been carrying a large cargo of provisions. The boats are, as was understood, under Government authority. They take down provisions, salt, and supplies generally. The boats will give cotton for what they want. It will not sell for money. One case is reported where a man asked the Confederates five barrels of cotton for one barrel of salt.

It turns out, however, that all this trade reported to Government regulations, and a number of boats have been seized for the rest of all steamboats engaged in such trade. On Monday the gunboats arrested and brought to Helena the following named boats: Pike, Blue Wing, Gladiator, J. R. Williams, Calashok, Lake City and Polar.

The Lake City had 300 bales of cotton and a large cargo of provisions. The boat and cargo is valued at \$200,000. The cargo of the Calashok is valued at \$50,000. Gen. Sherman has taken command at Helena.

It is understood that Gen. Steele will take the field.

Another expedition is talked of. Generals Morgan and Asboth are both at Memphis.

We have no confirmation of the reported bombardment of Vicksburg.

A dispatch from Col. J. D. Webster, at Helena, Tenn., says that after the capture of the city, the Confederates were not to have any more in the sale of newspapers on military roads in this department. It will be like any other legitimate trade, unrestricted except by necessary regulations.

THE COLLECTION OF DEFACED POSTAGE STAMPS.—The Postoffice Department has an eye upon the parties who are industriously engaged in the collection of defaced postage stamps, as they allege for the manufacture of paper mache. A special agent recently found in a village in the western part of New York State an accumulation of between fifty and sixty thousand stamps, which have been removed from letters to be sent to parties in New York city who had contracted for them. Those who gathered them were in good faith, but it is not so clear that this was the case with those to whom they were to be sent.

POSTAL PAYMENTS.—The Toronto Globe says that a curious dispute has arisen between the Canadian and American Governments, in reference to the payment of the balance due for postal services by the department at Washington to that at Quebec. The American Government offers to pay in its depreciated currency, contending that Canada is in the position of an ordinary contractor, and must accept payment as such in the currency of the Government which employs her. The Globe thinks that the service, being rendered in Canada, ought to be paid for in Canadian currency.

A NOVEL SURRENDER.—A correspondent with the army at Cross Hollows, Arkansas, tells a funny story of an officer who became very thirsty during the progress of a skirmish, and went to a neighboring spring for a drink. As he arose he set down on his own heels, which were armed with a pair of tremendous Mexican spurs. The instant he felt the prick of the sharp spurs he thought the enemy were upon him, and a layoff entering his flesh. When I surrender! he said at the top of his voice.

CHEAP PRINTING PAPER.—At a meeting of the Associated Press of New York city, a committee was appointed to invite proposals for supplying the press of this city with printing paper for a term of years.

A proposal has already been received from a party to supply at a large reduction the current market price. The committee is cash-paying consumers like the New York Press, capital will soon flow into this channel, and the conspiring paper makers be detected by their own weapons.

The question of repaying the duty on printing paper has been agitated by the country press. For the present the city press takes no action.—N. Y. Express, Dec. 9.

TRAITORS IN THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD. The Charleston Advertiser states that a letter received in that city from an officer on board the gunboat Dawn, dated Vernon river, Ga., says that of two lots of shells received by them from the gunboat Massachusetts not one of them would explode, some person having put a wet patch between the powder. These shells were all shipped from the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

THE N. Y. World believes Mr. Stevens' presence is simply a ploy to depreciate the currency to such a point that holders will be glad to get rid of it on any terms. By this means he expects to secure a market for Government bonds, on which the interest will be paid in the same depreciated and irredeemable paper.

A THIEF SHOT.—The Peru (Ill.) Herald learns that, one night last week, a German farmer near Granville caught a thief in the act of stealing a span of horses from the barn, whereupon he took his gun and shot the thief on the spot.

SURETY DEATH.—We regret to learn that Judge Short, of Bullitt county, Kentucky, died yesterday morning at noon, after a long illness.

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